

RANCHE PUPILS IN ALBERTA, CANADA:

A WARNING TO PARENTS AND GUARDIANS.

16th September, 1891.

SIR,

It seems desirable that the parents or guardians of young men wishing to emigrate to the North-West of Canada and take up land there, should be made aware of our recent experiences in the matter; and we therefore hope that the publicity given to this letter by your paper may be the means of saving other persons from the serious loss of time and money which we have incurred.

Being anxious that the lads, in whom we were interested, should have the benefit of an older colonist's advice and experience for the first year of their new life, we wished to enter into an

arrangement with a suitable man. A so-called "Rancher"*, from Alberta, who was at home on a holiday, induced us to enter into an agreement with him, by which we paid him *in advance* a large premium, and he undertook to teach the pupils, in whom we were interested, all the practical working and management of a Ranche, and to lodge and board them for a year. His connection with a well-known family in Aberdeenshire led us to accept his statements without question. These implied that the Ranche was very extensive, the stock large, the dairy profitable, and the opportunities for learning *complete*. His partner, he said, kept the farm accounts, and it would be an advantage to the pupils to learn book-keeping from him!

When the young men reached the so-called Ranche, they found that the whole thing had been grossly exaggerated, that the "Rancher's" partner repudiated the idea of pupils coming for tuition of the sort, that there was no dairying, that, in short, the fees had been obtained by misrepresentation. There was nothing to learn.

Legal advice has been taken in Alberta, and we are informed that we have no case against the "Rancher." The lads have decided with our approval, to leave him, and take their chance of getting trained by working on some genuine place, and all three have already obtained this.

* a son of Major Ross chief Constable of Aberdeenshire. —

Our premiums have been lost, the lads' time has been wasted, and we have no means of redress.

Should any of your readers desire further particulars, the undersigned will be ready to give them ; and we are, Sir,

Very truly yours,

ALEX. WALKER, J.P.,

64 Hamilton Place, Aberdeen,

E. R. TOWNSEND, M.D.,

24 St. Patrick's Hill, Cork.

LETTER.

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To

*Mr. Walker Esq.
Aberdeen*